

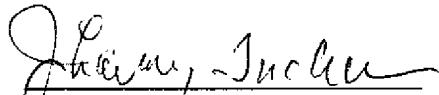
REMARKS

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. New claims 23 – 34 have been added to replace them.

Applicants would point out that the carbonate stabilizer used in the high pH composition of this invention is not a buffer in that high pH environment. Carbonate buffer solutions are known in the art (see e.g. Handbook of Chemistry and Physics, 81st edition, page 8-40, table 4) to consist of a mixture of sodium hydrogen carbonate and sodium carbonate. Such carbonate buffers are effective only near the pH value of a 1:1 molar mixture of sodium hydrogen carbonate and sodium carbonate. This pH value is about 10 at 20°C (see Handbook, p. 8-38) that is well below the pH of the developer composition of the present invention. A skilled artisan would certainly understand that carbonate does not act as a buffer at pH 13-14.

It is believed that this application is ready for examination, and that upon a review of the prior art, it will be readily seen that the application is allowable. Early action to that end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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